



# BIOLOGICAL HAZARD

A Biological Hazard can be intentional or unintentional. An intentional Biological Hazard (Attack) is the intentional release of a pathogen (disease causing agent) or biotoxin (poisonous substance produced by a living organism) against humans, plants, or animals. An unintentional Biological Hazard can result from the natural spread of infectious disease or from the accidental release of biological agents from health care facilities, research institutions, or industrial operations. The accidental release of harmful biological agents may occur if these agents are not stored correctly, if safety controls malfunction, or if safety procedures are not followed.



## HAS IT HAPPENED LOCALLY?

There have been zero confirmed Biological Attack Hazard events between 2014-2019. From 2014 to 2019, there were 88 reports of unintentional Biological Hazards, 16 of these investigations were considered hazard events. Suspicious powders and substances are frequently reported as Biological Hazards.

## WHAT IS THE ONGOING RISK?

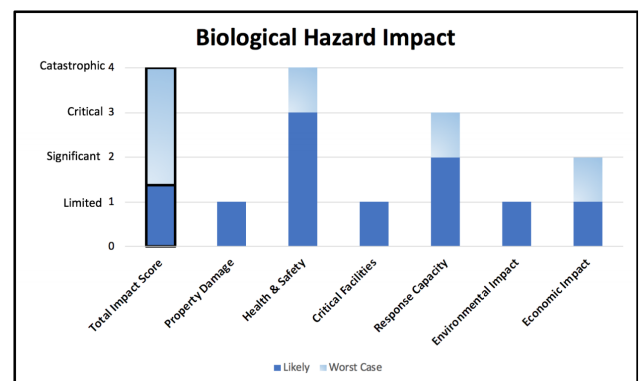
There is an expected 1-10% Chance of Annual Occurrence of a Biological Hazard in Howard County. In the most likely Biological Hazard, the Total Impact is considered Limited-Significant. In the worst-case scenario, the Total Impact is considered Catastrophic.

## DID YOU KNOW?

- A biological disease agent can be delivered in a variety of ways, ranging from delivery of an agent through the mail to discreet introduction into air, food, or water.
- The most prominent example of a Biological Hazard in recent history was the 2001 Anthrax attacks.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- [Howard County Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#)
- [Ready.gov](#)



Biological Hazard Risk Profile				
	Risk Assessment Category	Likely Hazard Scenario	Worst-Case Hazard Scenario	Weight
LIKELIHOOD	Likelihood	1.6 Unlikely-Infrequent		50%
	Impact	1.3 Limited-Significant	4 Catastrophic	40%
CONSEQUENCE	Warning Time	4 Short	4 Short	5%
	Duration	4 Very Long	4 Very Long	5%
TOTAL RISK SCORE		1.7	2.8	

